

REMARKS

The Office Action dated February 3, 2009 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments and the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response thereto. Claims 1-4 and 6 are pending. By this Amendment, Claims 1 and 6 are amended, and Claim 4 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is presented herein.

Approval of Drawings Requested

In the Office Action dated July 31, 2008, the Examiner objected to the drawings filed on May 17, 2006. The Applicants amended the Specification in the Response filed on October 31, 2008 in a manner believed to be responsive to the objection. Although the objection was not maintained in the Office Action of February 3, 2009, Applicants respectfully request official approval of the drawings.

Acknowledgement of Priority Documents Received

The Office Action indicates that certified copies of the priority documents have not been received. Applicants respectfully submit that a check of PAIR indicates that the priority documents were electronically retrieved by the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) from a participating IP Office on January 6, 2009. As such, Applicants respectfully request acknowledgement of the receipt thereof.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants respectfully acknowledge and appreciate the indication by the Examiner that Claims 4 and 6, although objected to for depending on a rejected base claim (i.e., Claim 1), would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the features recited by the base claim.

In this regard, Claim 4 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer and the allowable subject matter recited therein incorporated into Claim 1, thereby placing Claim 1 in condition for allowance. Claim 6 has been amended to depend from allowable Claim 1. Withdrawal of the objection to Claims 4 and 6 is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections -- 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement and the enablement requirement.

Although Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection, as explained above, Claim 4 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer and the allowable subject matter therein incorporated into base Claim 1, thereby placing Claim 1 in condition for allowance and rendering the rejections of Claim 1 moot.

Claims 2-3 and 6 depend from Claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that these dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons that Claim 1 is allowable as well as for the additional subject matter recited therein.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

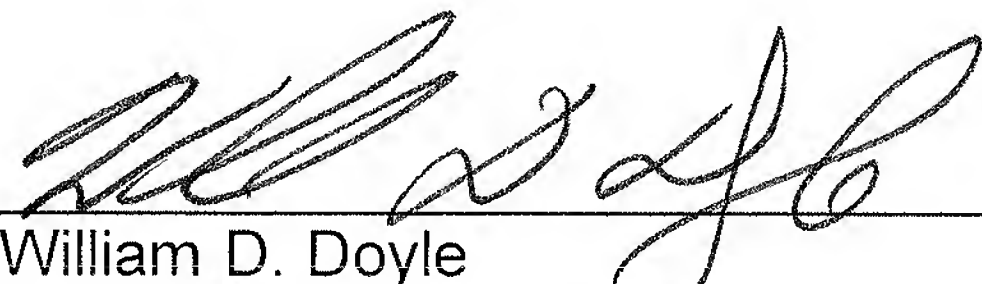
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the outstanding objection and rejections, allowance of Claims 1-3 and 6, and the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, **referencing attorney docket number 101190-00054.**

Respectfully submitted,



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